A-2 TEMPORARY VEGETATION

PURPOSE & APPLICATIONS

Temporary grass and legume cover is the establishment of vegetative cover on soils exposed for periods of up to 12 months. The purpose is to reduce erosion and sedimentation by stabilizing disturbed areas that will not be brought to final grade for a year or less and to reduce problems associated with mud and dust production from exposed soil surface during construction.
Runoff and sheet erosion caused by splash erosion (rain drop impact on bare soil), is the source of most fine particles in sediment. To reduce the sediment load in runoff, the soil surface itself should be protected. The most efficient and economical means of controlling sheet and rill erosion is to establish a vegetative cover. Annual plants that sprout rapidly and survive for only one growing season are suitable for establishing temporary vegetative cover.
Temporary seeding may prevent costly maintenance operations on other erosion control systems. For example, sediment basin clean-outs will be reduced if the drainage area of the basin is vegetated where grading and construction are not taking place.
Temporary seeding is essential to preserve the integrity of earthen structures used to control sediment, such as dikes, diversions, and the banks and dams of sediment basins.
Temporary vegetative cover should be applied where exposed soil surfaces are not to be fine-graded for periods from 30 days to one year. Such areas include denuded areas, soil stockpiles, dikes, dams, sides of sediment basins, temporary roadbanks, etc.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Proper seedbed preparation and the use of quality seed are important in this practice just as in permanent seeding. Failure to carefully follow sound agronomic recommendations will often result in an inadequate stand of vegetation that provides little or no erosion control.
- Nutrients and pesticides used to establish and maintain a vegetation cover must be managed to protect the surface and ground water quality.
- Temporary seeding should be used extensively in sensitive areas (ponds and lake watersheds, steep slopes, streambanks, etc.).
- Late fall seeding may fail and cause water quality deterioration in spring runoff events, thus other measures such as mulching should be implemented.

SPECIFICATIONS

Site Preparation

Grade as needed and feasible to permit the use of equipment for seedbed preparation, seeding, mulch application, and mulch anchoring. Install needed erosion control measures such as diversions, grade stabilization structures sediment basins and grassed waterways.

Seedbed Preparation

Apply limestone and fertilizer according to soil test recommendations such as those offered by the University of Maine Soil Testing Laboratory. Soil sample mailers are available from the local Cooperative Extension Service office. If soil testing is not feasible on small or variable sites, or where timing is critical, fertilizer may be applied at the rate of 600 pounds per acre or 13.8 pounds per 1,000 square feet of 10-10-10 (N-P2O5-K2O) or equivalent. Apply limestone (equivalent to 50 percent calcium plus magnesium oxide) at a rate of 3 tons per acre (138 lb. per 1,000 square feet).

Seeding

- Select seed from recommendations in enclosed table.
- Where the soil has been compacted by construction operations, loosen soil to a depth of 2 inches before applying fertilizer, lime and seed.
- Apply seed uniformly by hand, cyclone seeder, drill, cultipacker type seeder or hydroseeder (slurry including seed and fertilizer). Hydroseeding that includes mulch may be left on soil surface. Seeding rates must be increased 10 % when hydroseeding.

Mulching

Apply mulch over seeded area according to the TEMPORARY MULCHING BMP.

MAINTENANCE

Temporary seeding shall be periodically inspected. At a minimum, 95% of the soil surface should be covered by vegetation. If **any evidence of erosion or sedimentation is apparent**, repairs shall be made and other temporary measures used in the interim (mulch, filter barriers, check dams, etc.).

Temporary Seeding Rates and Dates

Seed	Lb./Ac	Seeding Depth	Recommended Seeding Dates	Remarks
Winter Rye	112(2.0 bu)	1-1.5 in	8/15-10/1	Good for fall seeding. Select a hardy species, such as Aroostook Rye.
Oats	80 (2.5 bu)	1-1.5 in.	4/1-7/1 8/15-9/15	Best for spring seeding. Early fall seeding will die when winter weather moved in, but mulch will provide protection.
Annual Ryegrass	40	.25 in	4/1-7/1	Grows quickly but is of short duration. Use where appearance is important. With mulch, seeding may be done throughout growing season.
Sudangrass	40 (1.0 bu)	.5-1in	5/15-8/15	Good growth during hot summer periods.
Perennial	40 (2.0 bu)	.25 in	8/15-9/15	Good cover, longer lasting than Annual Ryegrass. Mulching will allow seeding throughout growing season.
Temporary mulch with or without dormant seeding			10/1-4/1	Refer to TEMPORARY MULCHING BMP and/or PERMANENT VEGETATION BMP.